

# Star Sport

## Report in 3 weeks

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 30: A medical panel investigating the decision to allow Brazil's star forward Ronaldo to play in the World Cup final hours after suffering convulsions will make a preliminary report in about three weeks, the panel announced Wednesday, reports AP. The regional Council of Medicine in the state of Rio de Janeiro opened a preliminary inquiry into the decision of physicians Lúcio Toledo and Joaquim da Matta to allow Ronaldo to play in the World Cup final on July 12 hours after suffering some kind of attack. The results of the inquiry are subject to an ongoing debate here as Brazilians continue to look for an explanation for their 3-0 loss to France in the World Cup final. "It won't be until the middle of August that we have something new," the press office of the Regional Council of Medicine announced. The panel could uphold the decision to allow Ronaldo to play or it could call for further investigations that could lead to sanctions.



## Alfaz saves Bangladesh

**Sports Reporter**  
A late second half goal by striker Alfaz helped Bangladesh to salvage a 1-1 draw in a friendly football match against the Qatar Olympic team played at Doha, Qatar, last night, according to a telephone message received here yesterday.

The home side went ahead through a free-kick in the 20th minute. However, the visitors, who had reached Qatar the previous day, made a brilliant comeback in the second session and equalised the match when Alfaz scored in the 75th minute. Forward Don suffered a minor injury during the game and was replaced by Amin Rana during the match.

The visitors will play their second and last match against the national team of Qatar today.

**BANGLADESH TEAM:** Aminul, Jewel Rana, Rajani, Masood Rana, Hasan Al-Mamun, Matur Munn, Iqbal (Nakib), Zakir (Arman), Parvez (Monwar), Alfaz and Don (Amin Rana).

## Lankans whack Worcester

**Star Sport Monitor**  
The touring Sri Lankans trounced English county Worcestershire by seven wickets in a one day match in Worcester on Tuesday.

Worcestershire won the toss and scored a fighting 279 for six in 50 overs.

Out of form Zimbabwean born English Test batsman Graeme Hick forgot his woeful Trent Bridge experience, with an excellent 111.

The Lankans, powered by half-centuries from stalwarts Aravinda de Silva, Marvan Atapattu and Sanath Jayasuriya reached their target in 47.2 overs.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the one-day match between Sri Lanka and Worcestershire at Worcester on Tuesday.

**WORCESTERSHIRE**  
Weston c Ranatunga b Pushpakumara 15  
Wilson c Kaluwitharana b Chandana 61  
Hick c Atapattu b Dharmasena 111  
Solanki b Hathurusingha 7  
Moody lbw b Dharmasena 10  
Leatherdale not out 13  
Lampitt b Chandana 13  
Rhodes not out 7  
Extras: (lb-15, w-23, nb-4) 42  
Total: (for six wickets in 50 overs) 279

Did not bat: Illingworth, Newport, Chapman  
Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-154, 3-204, 4-243, 5-243, 6-265.

**Bowling** O M R W  
Pushpakumara 7 0 40 1  
Perera 7 0 28 0  
Hathurusingha 10 0 51 1  
Dharmasena 10 0 46 2  
Jayasuriya 8 0 42 0  
Chandana 8 0 57 2

**SRI LANKA**  
Jayasuriya c Wilson b Leatherdale 60  
Kaluwitharana c Hick b Newport 9  
Atapattu c Rhodes b Newport 68  
De Silva not out 73  
Ranatunga not out 25  
Extras: (lb-13, w-6, nb-3) 36  
Total: (for three wickets in 47.2 overs) 281

Did not bat: Jayawardene, Hathurusingha, Dharmasena, Chandana, Perera, Pushpakumara  
Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-129, 3-216

**Bowling** O M R W  
Newport 10 1 33 2  
Chapman 9.2 0 61 0  
Lampitt 10 0 62 0  
Leatherdale 8 0 56 1  
Illingworth 8 0 43 0  
Hick 2 0 107 0

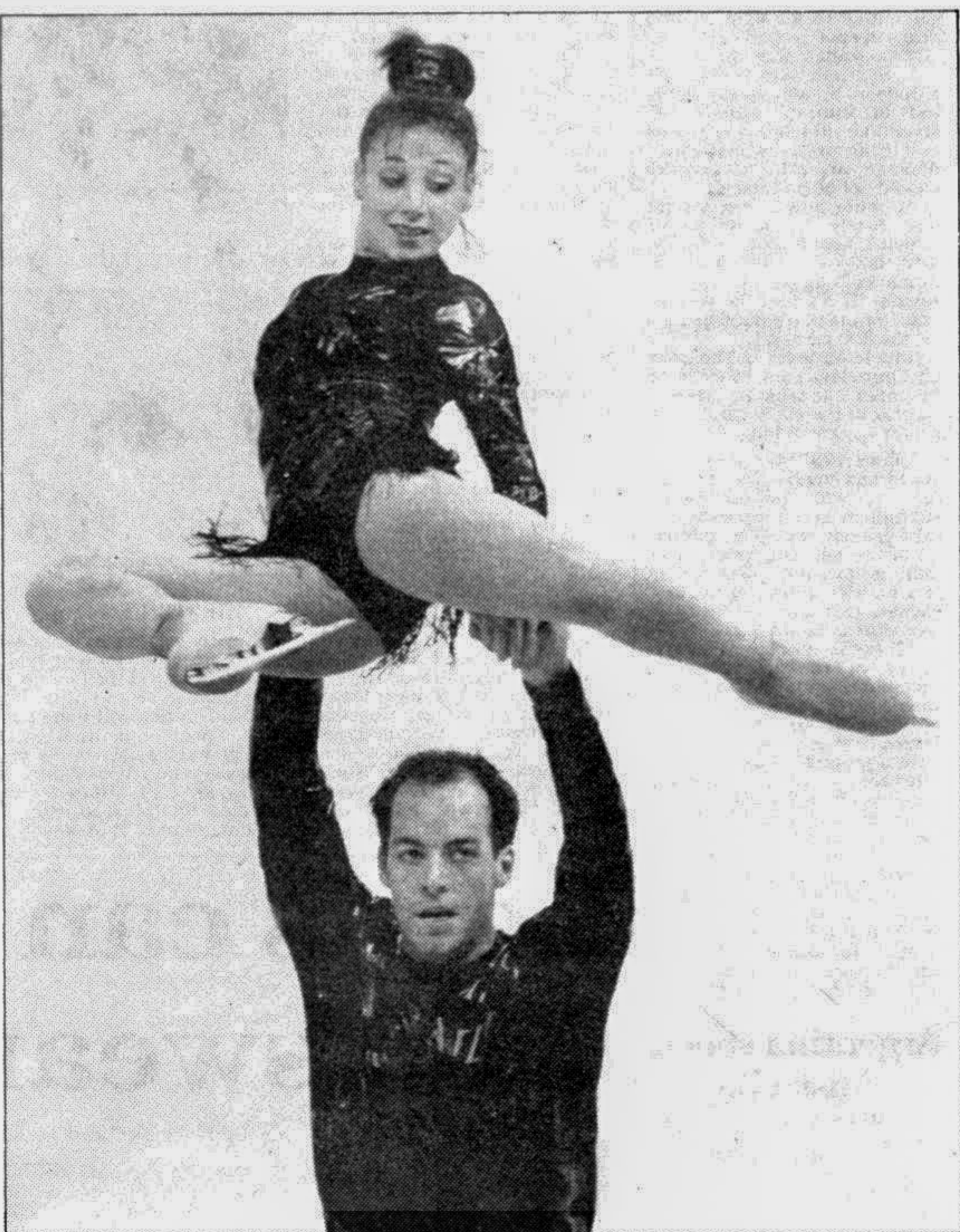
## Leicester show interest in Murali

COLOMBO, July 30 (The Daily News/ Internet): Leicestershire has shown interest in signing up Sri Lanka's ace spinner Muthiah Muralitharan as their overseas player for next season.

Although nothing has been finalised yet, county officials sent signals across to the Sri Lankan management that they were very much interested in the off-spinner to play for them after the World Cup tournament in England next year.

Sri Lanka will be in England next May to defend the World Cup which they won in March 1996 and Muralitharan will no doubt form an integral part of the team.

Leicestershire coach Jackie Birkenshaw, an off-spinner during his time was full of praise for Muralitharan. He ranked him as the best off-spinner in the world today and expected him to take over 400 Test wickets by the time he finishes his international career.



The French ice skating duo of Sarah Abitol (top) and Stephane Bernadis performing at the Goodwill Games in Uniondale, New York on July 29. — AFP photo

## German natants upset Americans

UNIONDALE, New York, July 30: US men have never lost a 400-metre freestyle-relay in the Olympics. At the Goodwill Games, it was the scene of a German win for a narrow dual-meet victory over the Americans, reports AP.

The United States led by three points going into the final race. But the relays are worth seven points for the winner and none for the loser, and the Germans' time of 3 minutes, 21.48 seconds — 1.25 ahead of the Americans — decided a 63-59 victory.

Almo Hellmann had a body-length lead over Josh Davis, a triple gold medalist in the 1996 Olympics, after the first leg, and the other three US swimmers couldn't catch up.

Davis, of Austin, Texas, also finished last in the 100 freestyle and second in the 200 Wednesday night.

The Americans led most of the meet thanks to breaststroke specialist Kurt Grote.

Grote, of Palo Alto, California, won both the 100- and 200-metre breaststroke and the breaststroke leg on the winning US medley relay.

Even Grote's desperately needed 17 points were not

enough as the Germans kept it close all night.

Lenny Krayzelburg of Los Angeles got the US team off to a good start in the medley relay with a Games record on the backstroke leg, but the world champion was upset in the individual 100 backstroke as Stev Theloke of lowered Krayzelburg's record set only a few minutes before.

Then Grote set a Games record in the 100 breaststroke and captured the 200 by more than three seconds.

The race that turned the meet was the 200. Davis won an Olympic gold medal in the event, but this time he lost by 23 seconds to Michael Kiedel, who also swam anchor on the Germans' winning freestyle relay.

A US highlight was the victory in the 200 individual medley by Ron Karnaugh, a 32-year-old doctor from Maplewood, New Jersey. Karnaugh set a Games record of 2:02.18.

In the other men's dual meet, the World All-Stars defeated Russia 66-56 behind Games records in the 100- and 200-metre butterfly by Denis Sylan-tiev of Ukraine. Pieter van den Hoogenband of the Netherlands

set a US open record of 1:47.34 in the 200 freestyle for the world team.

At Nassau Coliseum, figure skating began, with former world champion Todd Eldredge taking the lead after the men's short programme ahead of Russia's Alexei Urmanov and Evgeni Plushenko. Takeshi Honda of Japan was fourth, followed by Americans Michael Weiss and Timothy Goebel in fifth and sixth place.

Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze of Russia led after the short programme in pairs, ahead of Olympic gold medalists Oksana Kazakova and Artur Dmitriev of Russia. Russians Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov were in front following the compulsory dance.

Central Park was back in Goodwill action as women's beach volleyball opened, and defending champions Karolyin Kirby and Liz Masakayan of the United States lost to Australia's Pauline Manser and Kerri Pot-tharst, 15-10.

The Americans trailed 6-0 and 10-2 before running off six points in a row to get within 10-8, and trailed 12-10 before Manser hit three straight kills.

## De Boers adamant

AMSTERDAM, July 30 (AP): The predicament for twins Frank and Ronald de Boer seems simple: They want to leave Ajax Amsterdam, but the club won't let them.

The protracted contract squabble was dragged before an independent arbitration commission this week, and an agreement was still not in sight on Wednesday.

"They are good players and Ajax wants to keep them," Ajax's Christa Overtoom said.

"They've made it clear, they definitely won't come back for Ajax," said Rob de Leeuw, spokesman for the Royal Netherlands Soccer Association (KNVB).

After negotiations with the club failed, the twins took their case to the KNVB arbitration commission.

Both sides presented their arguments before the three-member panel Tuesday. A decision was expected later this week.

The commission's decision will be legally binding, De Leeuw said.

The twins have requested to be released from their contracts with Ajax, which run through the 2003-2004 season.

"Ajax was a great club, but we've read it," Ronald de Boer was quoted as saying by the national daily De Volkskrant in its Wednesday editions.

## Black calls it quits

LONDON, July 30 (Reuters/Internet): Roger Black announced his retirement from athletics on Thursday after being left out of Britain's team for the European Championships in Budapest next month.

The Olympic 400 metres silver medalist had finished only fourth in Sunday's AAA (Amateur Athletic Association) championships 400 metres, the official trial event, beaten by Iwan Thomas, Mark Richardson and Solomon Wariso.

The British team selectors named his three conquerors for the team, denying Black a chance to race for an unprecedented third title in the Europeans.

Black relinquished his role as British team captain and announced that Sunday's Grand Prix meeting in Sheffield would be his last.

"After what happened last week there is no way I could now carry on as team captain," he said.

The first two finishers in Sunday's trial were guaranteed a place in the team while the third spot was open to selectors' discretion.

Despite Wariso saying he would rather run the 200 metres than the 400, the selectors stuck with him.

Black said: "What is the point of having this rule... if ever there was a case for looking at the fourth-placed finisher then that was it. I was devastated when I heard the selectors' decision and I am still devastated. I believe that my performance on Sunday showed a major return to my Olympic form."

"But I guess 0.03 of a second is worth more than 13 years. My goal was to become European champion for the third time... but I feel now that a part of me has been taken away."

"If they (selectors) had given me a chance... set me a target for Sunday, told me to go out and beat everyone then at least that would have been something... something to aim at, a last chance. But what they have never given me is a chance."

## No hanky-panky in Siemens contract Cricket given everything

Hasan Masood

The Government of Bangladesh is to spend around 15 crore Taka to host the Wills International Cup to be held at the Dhaka Stadium from October 24 to November 2, State Minister for Youth and Sports Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

Mr. Quader, who is also the Chairman of the National Sports Council (NSC), said that the cost will be incurred for installing the new flood lighting system, the electronic scoreboard and the development of Dhaka Stadium, including the ground. He disclosed this while talking to The Daily Star at the NSC office last evening.

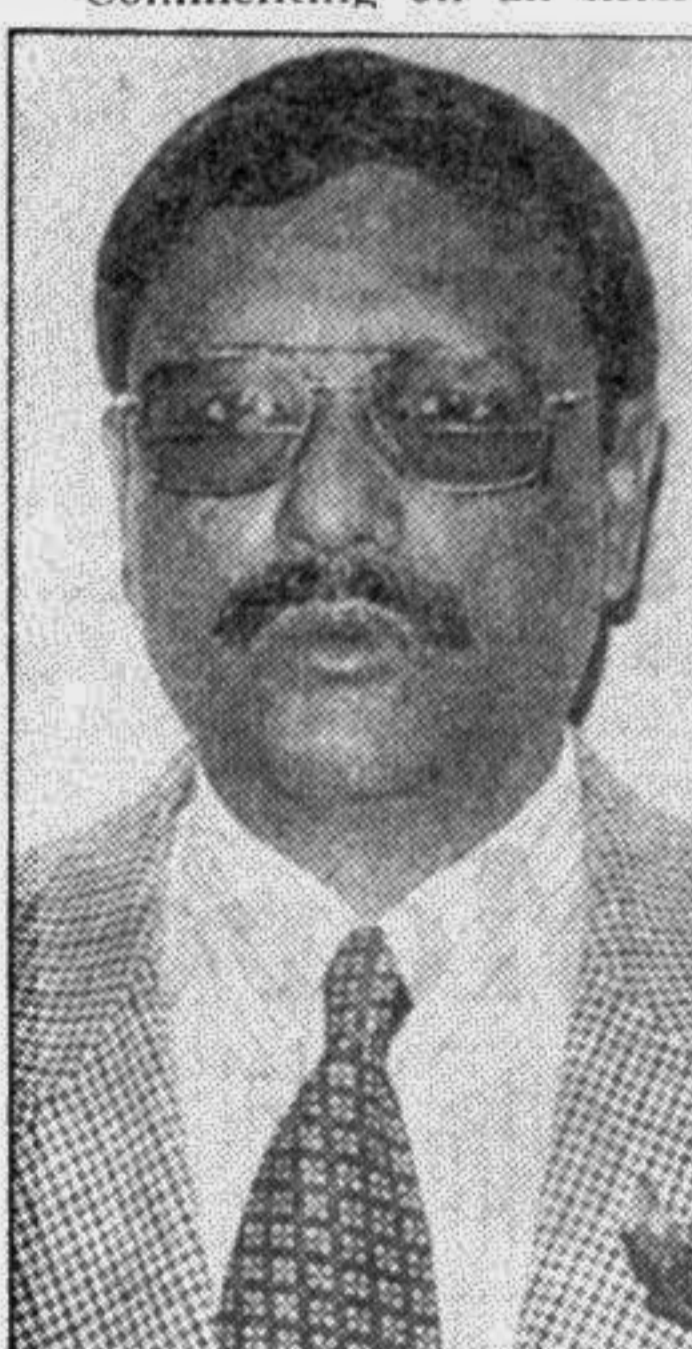
"The new flood lights and electronic scoreboard will cost around ten crore and the rest will be spent for the development works. Besides, we are going to double the size of the Press Box and the VIP gallery," said Quader.

Earlier the sports boss visited the Dhaka Stadium along with the Bangladesh Cricket Board president Saber Hossain Chowdhury to see the progress of the works.

Mr. Quader however denied a widely-publicised recent rumour that NSC have recast their contract with Siemens, who are installing the new flood-light system at the Dhaka

Stadium. The state minister categorically denied that Siemens were given the 'go ahead' by NSC to install another 60 bulbs in addition to the contracted 400.

Commenting on an inter-



OBABDUL QUADER

view of the Bangladesh cricket coach Gordon Greenidge published in the Daily Star in its issues of July 25, 26 and 27, the minister said that he was aware of things.

"I know what Greenidge wants because he told me the same things many a time when we came across each other at Dhaka or at the BKSP."

"As far as my ministry and myself are concerned, we have provided everything that the Board had been asking for in the name of cricket. I have spent more than three crore Taka to upgrade the facilities at the BKSP. Now if they can do anything or improve things, that is not my problem," said a disgruntled Quader.

The minister also revealed that although a Bangladesh contingent of around 100 persons for the 16th Commonwealth Games has been proposed and submitted for ministerial approval, he has reduced the number to around seventy.

"I have omitted the names of the wives of ministers, MPs and other influential men who were trying to go to the Games either in the capacity of observer or official. It is not a pleasure trip. Players should be given maximum priority," the state minister said.

## Lara's luckless days



BIRMINGHAM, England, July 30 (Reuters): Warwickshire's under-fire captain Brian Lara was given a vote of confidence

responsibility and I'm willing to do that.

"But I'm prone to failure just like anyone else and people have to understand that. There is no team in the world that I have done better for than War-

wickshire by county officials, who want him to continue leading the team until the end of the season.

Lara, who is also West Indies skipper, was verbally abused by frustrated Warwickshire supporters after Tuesday's eight-wicket defeat by Leicestershire in the quarter-finals of the NatWest Trophy 60 overs competition.

Three days earlier, he was jeered by members following a county championship defeat against Essex as Warwickshire's dismal form, and Lara's own struggle for runs, continued in a season which they started as favourites for all four domestic trophies.

However, Warwickshire chief executive Dennis Amiss, the former England opener, insisted Lara's position as captain was not under threat.

"What has happened this season is hurting him as much as it is hurting us," said Amiss. "But he is captain of the club and we want him to continue."

"When you appoint a player like Brian Lara with his record and reputation, you don't expect him to go through a season having as bad a run as he has had."

"He needs to score runs and he's been under tremendous pressure. But it's always the same with captains in cricket. They get criticised when the team loses and are heroes when you win. The captaincy would not be a problem or an issue if he was scoring runs, and I know he's working hard to put things right in that direction."

Lara said: "I have failed Warwickshire this season and the supporters are not accustomed to this sort of performance. I am the leader and the one who is supposed to take the



BRIAN LARA

wickshire because that period in 1994 was the greatest of my life.

"After the last three months I seem to be one of the most hated people here. But I have got broad shoulders and I have no intention of packing it all in. I would be foolish to do that. If Warwickshire want me to carry on as captain, I will do so."

Warwickshire's problems started in May when they failed to qualify for the knockout stages of the Benson and Hedges Cup 50 overs competition.

Now they are out of the NatWest Trophy, and are 12th in the 18-team county championship. The one-day 40 overs league offers them a degree of hope as they are fourth.

Trinidadian left-hander Lara's dismal form this season

## WC trophy to be given outright to winners

COLOMBO, July 30 (The Daily News/ Internet): The World Cup is the most prestigious trophy that the 12 cricketing nations will be vying for next summer. For the first time in the history of the competition, the trophy will be given outright to the winner of the World Cup.

It was designed and manufactured in London by Garrard, the Crown Jewellers and is valued at more than 27,000 pounds crafted in silvered gilt.

The 60 centimetre trophy weighs 11 kgs and it features a golden globe held aloft by three silver columns styled as stumps and balls, which represent the three essential aspects of the game — batting, bowling and fielding.

The trophy was designed by Paul Marsden at Garrard. Several craftsmen worked for two months in the workshop to produce the World Cup trophy. The six previous winners have been acknowledged on inscription plates at its base.

A replica identical in every detail other than these multiple plates will be presented to the 1999 World Cup champions and all future winners.

The 1999 Cricket World Cup begins on May 14 and the final is scheduled for May 31.

The curtain raiser of the tournament — England vs. Sri Lanka at Lord's will be preceded by a colourful opening ceremony.

## Bailey proves a point



PARIS, July 30: Olympic champion and world record holder Donovan Bailey of Canada rebounded from an embarrassing defeat at the Goodwill Games to beat an all-star 100 metres field at the Gaz de France athletics meeting on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Almost written off as a serious threat after a seventh place finish at the Goodwill event in New York last week, Bailey vowed to return to form for a series of high profile meetings in Europe.

He was true to his word, powering across the finish line ahead of Trinidad's Ato Boldon and Namibia's Frankie Fredericks in a modest time of 10.02 seconds.

Ignoring cool temperatures and a slight drizzle, Bailey rocketed from the blocks, then pulled away from the field in the final 50 metres, crossing the finish line with his arms spread and the same open mouth grin he brandished at the Atlanta Olympics when he set the world record of 9.84.

World champion Michael Greene of the United States, the winner at the Goodwill Games, was never a factor, easing up after about 30 metres to finish last in the eight-man field in 10.39.

While Bailey has yet to crack the 10-second barrier this season, the win vindicated the Canadian who has maintained his lack-lustre results have been the result of illness and

lingering effects from a car accident.

"I'm back but then I was always here," said Bailey. "I'm still not in shape right now. I'm still not in racing form."

"I'm not the old me. I just want to get back in shape and be consistent. I just have to relax and get back to old self."

Bailey also hinted his performance sent a message to Boldon and Greene, who were critical of him after his effort at the Goodwill Games.

"The field here was much, much stronger than any all year," said Bailey. "So I'm not really concerned with what

## Prunea leaves for Turkey

BUCHAREST, July 30: Romanian goalkeeper Florin Prunea today said he had quit his club Dynamo Bucharest and signed a one-year contract with newly-promoted Turkish First Division side Erzurumspor, reports Reuters.

"The Turkish side agreed with all my conditions so I signed a one-year contract," Prunea said by telephone.

Prunea, 30, was loaned by Dynamo for the last six months of the season of First Division club Universitatea Cluj. He has earned 34 caps for Romania.

Prunea did not reveal what the deal was worth but said: "I will earn four times more in Turkey than in Romania."

people are saying, I'm putting all my frustrations on the track now."

The rain and cold also failed to slow down Marion Jones, who continued her domination of the women's 100m, clocking the second best time of the season of 10.88 seconds to remain undefeated in the sprint.

Jones, who ran the second fastest 100m in history earlier this year and has her sights set on Florence Griffith-Joyner's world record of 10.49, powered out of the blocks and was never challenged.

The American also repeated her double gold medal performance at the Goodwill Games, capping off the evening by winning the long jump with a leap of 6.97.

The conditions did hamper Hicham el Guerrouj's assault on Noureddine Morceli's mile mark.

El Guerrouj, who claimed Morceli's 1,500m record in Rome on July 14, was led through the first three laps by pace-setters but left himself too much to do on the final 400 metres, crossing in 3:49.01, the second best time this season but well off Morceli's record of 3:44.39.

"After 600 metres I knew I didn't have it," El Guerrouj said. "The rabbits were good, my training was good but I guess the fatigue of those three races took something."

Gabriela Szabo of Romania opened the meeting by clocking the best time of the season in the 3,000m and the eighth fastest in history with 8:24.31.



SUPERFAST LADIES: Marion Jones (R) of the USA and France's Christine Arron sprint neck to neck during the 100 metres final at the IAAF Gaz de France athletics meet in Paris on July 29. Jones won the event clocking 10.88 sec. — AFP photo